

Rule 2092-1- APPEARANCES BY LAW STUDENTS

In the interest of providing assistance to lawyers who represent clients unable to pay for legal services, and encouraging participating law schools to provide clinical instruction in the conduct of litigation in bankruptcy court, this Local Rule establishes the procedures by which eligible law students may appear in this Court.

(1) Except as otherwise provided herein, the requirements of Middle District of Florida, District Court Rule 2.05 shall govern the limited admission of qualified law students to practice before the bankruptcy court for the purpose of representing indigent persons. This limited admission to practice before the court is granted at the pleasure of the court and may be revoked at any time upon the court's own motion.

(2) No motion for a judicial determination of indigency shall be required with respect to any represented person who has been referred to a qualified law student by a not-for-profit legal aid organization or legal aid clinic operated by an approved law school.

(3) In addition to the requirements of District Court Rule 2.05, a qualified law student must have completed at an approved law school at least one course in debtor-creditor law or bankruptcy law, one course in professional responsibility, and must comply with all applicable requirements promulgated by the Supreme Court of Florida and the Florida Bar.

(4) A qualified law student may participate in all court proceedings, including depositions, provided that the supervising lawyer or another lawyer from the same office is present. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the supervising lawyer or another

lawyer from the same office shall be present while a qualified law student is participating in court proceedings. *Ex parte* and agreed orders may be presented to the court by a qualified law student without the presence of the supervising lawyer or another lawyer from the same office.

(5) The supervising lawyer shall be admitted to practice before this court as an electronic filer. The supervising lawyer or another lawyer from the same office shall direct, supervise and review all of the work of the qualified law student and shall assume personal professional responsibility for any work undertaken by the qualified law student while under the lawyer's supervision. All pleadings, motions, briefs, and other documents prepared by the qualified law student shall be reviewed by the supervising lawyer or a lawyer from the same office as the supervising lawyer.

(6) When a qualified law student signs any correspondence or legal document, the qualified law student's signature shall be followed by the title "Law Student" and, if the document is prepared for presentation to a court or for filing with the clerk thereof, the document shall also be signed by the supervising lawyer or lawyer from the same office as the supervising lawyer.

(7) A lawyer currently acting as a supervising lawyer may be terminated as a supervising lawyer at the discretion of the court. When a qualified law student's supervisor is so terminated, the student shall cease performing any services under this rule until written notice of a substitute supervising lawyer, signed by the student and by the supervising lawyer, is filed with the court.

(8) The performance of pro bono legal services to debtors or other persons who

are unable to pay for such legal services, in accordance with this rule, shall not cause the qualified law student, the sponsoring legal aid organization or law school, or the supervising attorney to be deemed a “debt relief agency” as defined in 11 U.S.C. §§ 101(12A).